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FAX NO.: 571-273-8300

FROM: Kin-Wah Tong, Esq.

DATE: April 17, 2006

MATTER: Serial No 10/052,814 Filed: January 23, 2002

DOCKET NO.: ATT 2001-0305

APPLICANT: CRESWELL, et al

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<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b> <i>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i>	Application Number	10/052,814
	Filing Date	January 23, 2002
	First Named Inventor	CRESWELL, et al
	Group Art Unit	2686
	Examiner Name	Willie J. Daniel Jr.
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	Attorney Docket Number	003493.00291 (ATT/2001-0305)

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form  <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached  <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Response  <input type="checkbox"/> After Final  <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)  <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request (1 month)  <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request  <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement  <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)  <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application  <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)  <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers  <input type="checkbox"/> Petition  <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application  <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address  <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer  <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund  <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group  <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group ( <i>Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief</i> )  <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information  <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) ( <i>please identify below</i> ): <p align="center"><b>Certificate of Facsimile Transmission</b></p>		
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Remarks</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			Remarks	
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<h2 align="center">FEE TRANSMITTAL for FY 2005</h2>		Application Number	10/052,814
		Filing Date	January 23, 2002
		First Named Inventor	CRESWELL, et al.
		Examiner Name	Willie J. Daniel Jr.
		Art Unit	2686
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27		Attorney Docket No.	003493.00291 (ATT/2001-0305)
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT</b> (\$) <b>\$500.00</b>			

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### FEE CALCULATION

#### 1. BASIC FILING, SEARCH, AND EXAMINATION FEES

Application Type	FILING FEES		SEARCH FEES		EXAMINATION FEES		Fees Paid (\$)
	Fee (\$)	Small Entity Fee (\$)	Fee (\$)	Small Entity Fee (\$)	Fee (\$)	Small Entity Fee (\$)	
Utility	300	150	500	250	200	100	_____
Design	200	100	100	50	130	65	_____
Plant	200	100	300	150	160	80	_____
Reissue	300	150	500	250	600	300	_____
Provisional	200	100	0	0	0	0	_____

#### 2. EXCESS CLAIM FEES

Fee Description		Small Entity	
Fee (\$)		Fee (\$)	Fee (\$)
Each claim over 20 (including Reissues)		50	25
Each independent claim over 3 (including Reissues)		200	100
Multiple dependent claims		360	180
Total Claims	Extra Claims	Fee (\$)	Fee Paid (\$)
_____ - 20 or HP = _____	x _____	= _____	_____
HP = highest number of total claims paid for, if greater than 20.			
Indep. Claims	Extra Claims	Fee (\$)	Fee Paid (\$)
_____ - 3 or HP = _____	x _____	= _____	_____
HP = highest number of independent claims paid for, if greater than 3.			

#### 3. APPLICATION SIZE FEE

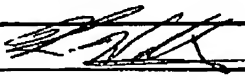
If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper (excluding electronically filed sequence or computer listings under 37 CFR 1.52(e)), the application size fee due is \$250 (\$125 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).

Total Sheets \_\_\_\_\_ Extra Sheets \_\_\_\_\_ Number of each additional 50 or fraction thereof \_\_\_\_\_ Fee (\$)  
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#### 4. OTHER FEE(S)

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Signature		Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	39,400	Telephone	(732) 530-9404
Name (Print/Type)	Kin-Wah Tong	Date	April 17, 2006		

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### **RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

The Appellants know of no related appeals or interferences that might directly affect or be directly affected by or have bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

### **STATUS OF CLAIMS**

Claims 1-28 are pending in the application. Claims 1-28 were originally presented in the application. Claims 1-28 stand rejected in view of several references as discussed below. The rejection of claims 1-28 based on the cited references is appealed. The pending claims are shown in the attached Appendix.

### **STATUS OF AMENDMENTS**

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 11-15, 17-20, 22-25, 27 and 28 were amended in a response to an Office Action dated December 8, 2004, filed on March 8, 2005. No amendments to the claims, in this application, were submitted subsequent to final rejection. The Appellants are appealing the claims as they read at the time the final rejection was issued. These claims are shown in the attached Appendix.

### **SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER**

The present invention provides for a method and system for automated interactive management of a communication service account, said account having parameters establishing rules of use. In the embodiment of independent claim 1, the invention comprises a server 112 and a data storage device 120 in communication with the server 112. (See e.g., Appellants' specification, page 7, para. [15].) The data storage device 120 comprises account data that comprises the parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service, where said at least one subscribed communication service is accessible by a user device 101, 102, 103. (See *Id.* at page 11, para. [21].) The server 112 is configured to receive a customer-initiated signal requesting modification of a first account parameter from said parameters and to

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modify the first account parameter in response to the customer-initiated signal. (See *Id.* at page 13, para. [23].)

In the embodiment of independent claim 17, an automated method of managing communication service accounts is described. The automated method comprises maintaining a database 120 comprising account parameters, wherein at least one account parameter establishes rules by which a customer's user device 101, 102, 103 may use at least one subscribed communication service at designated times. (See e.g., Appellants' specification, page 11, para. [21].) Then, a customer-initiated signal requesting modification of the at least one account parameter is received. (See *Id.* at page 13, para. [23].) The automated method proceeds by modifying the at least one account parameter in response to the customer-initiated signal. (See *Id.*) Finally, the method concludes by updating the database to reflect modification of the at least one account parameter. (See *Id.*)

In the embodiment of independent claim 25, an automated method of managing communication service accounts is described. The automated method comprises maintaining a first database 120 comprising account parameters establishing rules of use for at least two types of subscribed communication services, wherein a first account parameter establishes rules by which a first type subscribed communication service may be accessed at designated times. (See e.g., Appellants' specification, page 18, para. [32]; page 19, para. [35].) In addition, a second database 137 comprising account parameters establishing rules of use is maintained, wherein a second account parameter establishes rules by which a second type of subscribed communication service may be accessed at designated times. (See *Id.*) Next, a customer-initiated signal requesting modification of at least one of the first and second account parameters is received. (See *Id.*) Subsequently, in response to the customer initiated signal, the first parameter to change a preset amount of first service usage time during a first period is modified and the second parameter to change a preset amount of second service usage time during a second period is modified. (See *Id.*) The method concludes by updating at least one of the first and second databases to reflect modification of the first and second account parameters. (See *Id.*)

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In the embodiment of independent claim 27, a system for automated interactive management of a communication service account is described. The system comprises a server 112 and a data storage device 120 in communication with the server 112. (See e.g., Appellants' specification, page 7, para. [15].) The data storage device 120 comprises account data that comprises parameters establishing rules of use that control the terms by which a plurality of user devices 101, 102, 103 may obtain at least one subscribed communication service. (See *Id.* at page 11, para. [21].) The server 112 is configured to update a first account parameter based on use of the communication by the plurality of user devices 101, 102, 103, to receive a customer-initiated signal requesting modification of the first account parameter, to query the database 120 and determine if the first account parameter is a modifiable account parameter that may be modified in response to a customer-initiated signal and to modify the first account parameter if it is a modifiable account parameter. (See *Id.* at page 13, para. [23].)

#### **GROUND OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL**

Claims 1, 5-10, 12-14, 16, 17, 19-21 and 23-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kung (European Patent EP 0 863 678, published September 9, 1998, hereinafter referred to as "Kung"). Claims 1-4, 9-11, 14, 15, 17, 18, 21, 22, 27 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Rosenberg, et al. (US Patent No. 6,628,934, issued September 30, 2003, hereinafter referred to as "Rosenberg").

#### **ARGUMENT**

##### **A. 35 U.S.C. §102(b) – Kung**

###### **1. Claim 1.**

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Kung. Appellants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Kung teaches a method for automatic service provisioning for telecommunications. An existing customer calls a telecommunication company to make one or more service requests. (See Kung, col. 3, ll. 20-51.) If the customer is validated as an existing customer a service order is generated pertaining to the received service request. (See *Id.*) Services, as defined by Kung, include adding new telephone

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numbers, adding new service features, removing existing service features, changing existing service providers, changing billing information, and dropping service altogether. (See Kung, col. 9, ll. 47-54.)

The Appellants respectfully submit that Kung fails to teach or to suggest a system for automated interactive management of a communication service account comprising a server and a data storage device comprising account data that comprises parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service and modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal, as positively claimed by the Appellants' independent claim 1. To illustrate, Appellants' independent claim 1 recites:

1. A system for automated interactive management of a communication service account, said account having parameters establishing rules of use, comprising:
  - a server; and
  - a data storage device in communication with the server, the data storage device comprising account data that comprises the parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service, where said at least one subscribed communication service is accessible by a user device, wherein the server is configured to receive a customer-initiated signal requesting modification of a first account parameter from said parameters and to modify the first account parameter in response to the customer-initiated signal (Emphasis Added.)

In an exemplary embodiment, Appellants' system teaches an automated interactive management of a communication service account where the account data comprises parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service. This gives subscribers flexibility in managing the usage of their subscribed communication service. (e.g., See Appellants' specification, page 10, para. [20].) For example, subscribers can exchange units, such as minutes or the number of movies, applicable for one period for units, such as minutes or the number of movies, applicable in a second period for a subscribed communication service. (See *Id*, emphasis added; page 16, para. [29].) Furthermore, in one embodiment, a subscriber can modify parameters in their account during a billing period. (See e.g., Appellants' specification, page 10, para. [20], emphasis added.) In other words, Appellants'



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invention allows usage parameters associated with a subscribed communication service to be adjustable by a user in an automated and interactive manner.

The Appellants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is not as broad as the Examiner asserts. Notably, the parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service, as claimed by Appellants' independent claim 1, refers to rules of use (e.g. allocation of minutes, allocation of movies, allocations of classes, and so on) of at least one subscribed communication service (e.g. a subscriber selected calling plan within the subscriber's wireless service). Furthermore, modifying the first account parameter in response to the customer-initiated signal, as positively claimed by Appellants' independent claim 1, does not require adding completely new or different services or changing calling plans. To illustrate, when the first account parameter is modified in response to the customer-initiated signal, the subscriber still has the same at least one subscribed communication service (i.e. the service plan is the same and the scope of the service is the same). In other words, a new communication service is not being provisioned by the user-initiated signal. Instead, the user is able to manipulate a first account parameter from said parameters that establish rules of use, e.g., modifying how minutes are allocated in a dialing plan of the existing subscribed communication service.

In contrast, Kung only teaches a method for automatically provisioning general services initiated by an existing customer. (See Kung, col. 3, ll. 20-51.) Services include requests for adding new telephone numbers, removing existing telephone numbers, adding new service features, removing existing service features, changing existing service providers, changing billing information, and dropping service altogether. (See Kung, col. 9, ll. 47-54.) Kung fails to teach or to suggest parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service or manipulating a first account parameter from said parameters that establish rules of use. Unlike the Appellants' invention, where modifying a first account parameter establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service simply re-allocates units, such as minutes in a calling plan, and the scope of the service remains unchanged, Kung teaches changing the scope of the service by provisioning additional services. Therefore, a method for automatically provisioning general services, such as adding

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new telephone numbers, removing existing telephone numbers, adding new service features, etc., does not anticipate the Appellants' system that is limited to the automated interactive management of a communication service account where the account data comprises parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service.

Contrary to the Examiner's broad interpretation of Appellants' independent claim 1, Appellants' invention is only limited to how a user is able to interactively adjust a usage parameter of a subscribed communication service, for example, modifying how minutes are allocated within an existing dialing plan of the existing subscribed communication service (e.g. a subscriber selected calling plan within the subscriber's wireless service), whereas Kung is teaching an automated service provisioning method. Thus, Kung clearly fails to anticipate Appellants' independent claim 1. Consequently, Appellants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and is patentable thereunder.

## 2. Claim 5

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Kung. Appellants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Appellants submit that Kung does not teach, show, or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 1. Since Kung does not anticipate Appellants' invention as recited in Appellants' independent claim 1, dependent claim 5 is also not anticipated since the claim depends directly from claim 1 and recites additional features of the present invention. Thus, claim 5 should be deemed patentable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to independent claim 1.

Secondly, the Appellants contend that Kung does not teach the novel concept of a system for automated interactive management of a communication service account comprising a server and a data storage device comprising account data that comprises parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service and modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal in combination with the at least one subscribed communication service being long distance telephone service, the user devices being a telephone, the customer-initiated

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signal is initiated on the user device and the first account parameter is a number of calling plan minutes, as set forth in claim 5.

Consistent with Appellants' argument above, with respect to Appellants' independent claim 1, Appellants' dependent claim 5 teaches that the first account parameter is a number of calling plan minutes. Consequently, when modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal, the number of calling plan minutes is modified within the at least one subscribed communication service. The ability for a customer to modify the rule of use of calling plan minutes is simply not anticipated by Kung. Namely, a new service is not added, a service is not changed, and a new calling plan is not selected. In contrast, Kung only teaches a method for automatically adding or changing general services initiated by an existing customer. (See Kung, col. 3, ll. 20-51.) Thus, Kung clearly fails to anticipate Appellants' dependent claim 5. Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that claim 5 fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and is patentable thereunder.

### 3. Claim 6

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Kung. Appellants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Appellants submit that Kung does not teach, show, or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 1. Since Kung does not anticipate Appellants' invention as recited in Appellants' independent claim 1, dependent claim 6 is also not anticipated since the claim depends directly from claim 1 and recites additional features of the present invention. Thus, claim 6 should be deemed patentable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to independent claim 1.

Secondly, the Appellants contend that Kung does not teach the novel concept of a system for automated interactive management of a communication service account comprising a server and a data storage device comprising account data that comprises parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service and modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal in combination with the at least one subscribed communication service being long distance telephone service, the user devices being a telephone, the customer-initiated

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signal is initiated on a device that is not the user device and the first account parameter is a number of calling plan minutes, as set forth in claim 6.

Consistent with Appellants' argument above, with respect to Appellants' independent claim 1, Appellants' dependent claim 6 teaches that the first account parameter is a number of calling plan minutes. Consequently, when modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal, the number of calling plan minutes is modified within the at least one subscribed communication service. Furthermore, the device that generated the customer-initiated signal does not have to be the user device, thereby providing convenience to the customer. It should be noted that a new service is not added, a service is not changed, nor is a new calling plan selected. In contrast, Kung only teaches a method for automatically adding or changing general services initiated by an existing customer. (See Kung, col. 3, ll. 20-51.) Thus, Kung clearly falls to anticipate Appellants' dependent claim 6. Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that claim 6 fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and is patentable thereunder.

#### 4. Claim 7

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Kung. Appellants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Appellants submit that Kung does not teach, show, or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 1. Since Kung does not anticipate Appellants' invention as recited in Appellants' independent claim 1, dependent claim 7 is also not anticipated since the claim depends indirectly from claim 1 and recites additional features of the present invention. Thus, claim 7 should be deemed patentable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to independent claim 1.

Secondly, the Appellants contend that Kung does not teach the novel concept of a system for automated interactive management of a communication service account comprising a server and a data storage device comprising account data that comprises parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service and modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal in combination with the at least one subscribed communication service being long

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distance telephone service, the user devices being a telephone, the customer-initiated signal is initiated on a device that is not the user device and the first account parameter is a number of calling plan minutes, wherein the customer-initiated signal is initiated on a personal computer, as set forth in claim 7.

Consistent with Appellants' argument above, with respect to Appellants' independent claim 1, Appellants' dependent claim 7 teaches that the first account parameter is a number of calling plan minutes. Consequently, when modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal, the number of calling plan minutes is modified within the at least one subscribed communication service. Furthermore, the device (e.g., a personal computer) that generated the customer-initiated signal does not have to be the user device, thereby providing convenience to the customer. It should be noted that a new service is not added, a service is not changed, nor is a new calling plan selected. In contrast, Kung only teaches a method for automatically adding or changing general services initiated by an existing customer. (See Kung, col. 3, ll. 20-51.) Thus, Kung clearly fails to anticipate Appellants' dependent claim 7. Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that claim 7 fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and is patentable thereunder.

5. Claim 8

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Kung. Appellants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Appellants submit that Kung does not teach, show, or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 1. Since Kung does not anticipate Appellants' invention as recited in Appellants' independent claim 1, dependent claim 8 is also not anticipated since the claim depends directly from claim 1 and recites additional features of the present invention. Thus, claim 8 should be deemed patentable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to independent claim 1.

Secondly, the Appellants contend that Kung does not teach the novel concept of a system for automated interactive management of a communication service account comprising a server and a data storage device comprising account data that comprises parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service

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and modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal in combination with the at least one subscribed communication service sharing a communication medium with cable television transmissions and the user device is one of a personal computer, a set top box, an interactive television and a VoIP telephone, as set forth in claim 8. The various types of user devices provide a subscriber greater access to modify a first account parameter establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service. (See Appellants' specification, page 17, para. [31].) For example, if a subscriber wants to modify the allocation of minutes (i.e. parameters establishing rules of use) of his selected wireless calling plan (i.e. at least one subscribed communication service) by a device other than the associated cell phone, the subscriber may do so on a personal computer. (See *Id.*) Furthermore, Kung is completely devoid of any teaching pertaining to cable television transmission. Thus, Kung clearly fails to anticipate Appellants' dependent claim 8. Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that claim 8 fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and is patentable thereunder.

6. Claim 9

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Kung. Appellants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Appellants submit that Kung does not teach, show, or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 1. Since Kung does not anticipate Appellants' invention as recited in Appellants' independent claim 1, dependent claim 9 is also not anticipated since the claim depends directly from claim 1 and recites additional features of the present invention. Thus, claim 9 should be deemed patentable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to independent claim 1.

Secondly, the Appellants contend that Kung does not teach the novel concept of a system for automated interactive management of a communication service account comprising a server and a data storage device comprising account data that comprises parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service and modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal in combination with the server being further configured to receive a customer-initiated

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signal identifying the user device, to retrieve the first account parameter in response to the identifying signal and to issue, in response to the identifying signal and for the communication to the customer, a response signal comprising at least part of the first account parameter, as set forth in claim 9.

Consistent with Appellants' argument above, with respect to Appellants' independent claim 1, Appellants' dependent claim 9 teaches retrieving the first account parameter and issuing a response signal comprising at least part of the first account parameter. Consequently, modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal, the number of calling plan minutes is modified within the at least one subscribed communication service. A new service is not added, a service is not changed, nor is a new calling plan selected. In contrast, Kung only teaches a method for automatically adding or changing general services initiated by an existing customer. (See Kung, col. 3, ll. 20-51.) Thus, Kung clearly fails to anticipate Appellants' dependent claim 9. Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that claim 9 fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and is patentable thereunder.

7. Claim 10

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Kung. Appellants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Appellants submit that Kung does not teach, show, or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 1. Since Kung does not anticipate Appellants' invention as recited in Appellants' independent claim 1, dependent claim 10 is also not anticipated since the claim depends indirectly from claim 1 and recites additional features of the present invention. Thus, claim 10 should be deemed patentable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to independent claim 1.

Secondly, the Appellants contend that Kung does not teach the novel concept of a system for automated interactive management of a communication service account comprising a server and a data storage device comprising account data that comprises parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service and modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal in combination with the server being further configured to receive a customer-initiated

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signal identifying the user device, to retrieve the first account parameter in response to the identifying signal and to issue, in response to the identifying signal and for the communication to the customer, a response signal comprising at least part of the first account parameter, wherein the server is further configured to identify the type of user device and to issue the response signal in a form optimized for the user device, as set forth in claim 10. Because the subscriber may transmit an identifying signal from various devices, the issued response is in a form optimized for the user device, whether it be a cell phone or a personal computer. (See e.g., Appellants' specification, page 18, para. [31].) Kung is completely devoid of any teaching as to multiple types of input devices and the need for the server to interact with these different input devices in a different manner. Thus, Kung clearly fails to anticipate Appellants' dependent claim 10. Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that claim 10 fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and is patentable thereunder.

8. Claim 12

Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Kung. Appellants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Appellants submit that Kung does not teach, show, or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 1. Since Kung does not anticipate Appellants' invention as recited in Appellants' independent claim 1, dependent claim 12 is also not anticipated since the claim depends indirectly from claim 1 and recites additional features of the present invention. Thus, claim 12 should be deemed patentable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to independent claim 1.

Secondly, the Appellants contend that Kung does not teach the novel concept of a system for automated interactive management of a communication service account comprising a server and a data storage device comprising account data that comprises parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service and modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal in combination with the server being further configured to receive a customer-initiated signal identifying the user device, to retrieve the first account parameter in response to the identifying signal and to issue, in response to the identifying signal and for the



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communication to the customer, a response signal comprising at least part of the first account parameter, wherein the server is further configured to identify the type of user device and to issue the response signal in a form optimized for the user device and the at least one subscribed communication service is long distance telephone service, the user device is a telephone, and the first account parameter is a number of calling plan minutes, as set forth in claim 12.

Consistent with Appellants' argument above, with respect to Appellants' independent claim 1, Appellants' dependent claim 12 teaches that the first account parameter is a number of calling plan minutes. Consequently, when modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal, the number of calling plan minutes is modified within the at least one subscribed communication service. A new service is not added, a service is not changed, nor is a new calling plan selected. In contrast, Kung only teaches a method for automatically adding or changing general services initiated by an existing customer. (See Kung, col. 3, ll. 20-51.) Thus, Kung clearly fails to anticipate Appellants' dependent claim 12. Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that claim 12 fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and is patentable thereunder.

9. Claim 13

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Kung. Appellants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Appellants submit that Kung does not teach, show, or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 1. Since Kung does not anticipate Appellants' invention as recited in Appellants' independent claim 1, dependent claim 13 is also not anticipated since the claim depends indirectly from claim 1 and recites additional features of the present invention. Thus, claim 13 should be deemed patentable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to independent claim 1.

Secondly, the Appellants contend that Kung does not teach the novel concept of a system for automated interactive management of a communication service account comprising a server and a data storage device comprising account data that comprises parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service

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and modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal in combination with the server being further configured to receive a customer-initiated signal identifying the user device, to retrieve the first account parameter in response to the identifying signal and to issue, in response to the identifying signal and for the communication to the customer, a response signal comprising at least part of the first account parameter, wherein the server is further configured to identify the type of user device and to issue the response signal in a form optimized for the user device and the at least one subscribed communication service shares a communication medium with cable television transmission and the user device is one of a personal computer, a set top box, an interactive television, and a VoIP telephone, as set forth in claim 13. The various types of user devices provide a subscriber greater access to modify a first account parameter establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service. (See e.g., Appellants' specification, page 17, para. [31].) For example, if a subscriber wants to modify the allocation of minutes (i.e. parameters establishing rules of use) of his selected wireless calling plan (i.e. at least one subscribed communication service.) by a device other than the associated cell phone, the subscriber may do so on a personal computer. (See *Id.*) Kung is also devoid of any teaching pertaining to cable television transmission. Thus, Kung clearly fails to anticipate Appellants' dependent claim 13. Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that claim 13 fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and is patentable thereunder.

10. Claim 14

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Kung. Appellants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Appellants submit that Kung does not teach, show, or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 1. Since Kung does not anticipate Appellants' invention as recited in Appellants' independent claim 1, dependent claim 14 is also not anticipated since the claim depends indirectly from claim 1 and recites additional features of the present invention. Thus, claim 14 should be deemed patentable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to independent claim 1.

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Secondly, the Appellants contend that Kung does not teach the novel concept of a system for automated interactive management of a communication service account comprising a server and a data storage device comprising account data that comprises parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service and modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal in combination with the server being further configured to receive a customer-initiated signal identifying the user device, to retrieve the first account parameter in response to the identifying signal and to issue, in response to the identifying signal and for the communication to the customer, a response signal comprising at least part of the first account parameter, wherein the server is further configured to identify the type of user device and to issue the response signal in a form optimized for the user device and the server being further configured to update the first account parameter based upon use of the at least one subscribed communication service by the user device and the server being further configured to, upon the first account parameter reaching a first predetermined value, automatically reset the first account parameter to a second predetermined value, as set forth in claim 14. In addition to changing the allocation of minutes within in a subscribed calling plan, a subscriber may choose to automatically replenish a block of minutes when the allocated minutes are used. (See e.g., Appellants' specification, page 18, para. [33].) There is absolutely no such teaching in Kung. Thus, Kung clearly fails to anticipate Appellants' dependent claim 14. Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that claim 14 fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and is patentable thereunder.

11. Claim 16

Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Kung. Appellants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Appellants submit that Kung does not teach, show, or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 1. Since Kung does not anticipate Appellants' invention as recited in Appellants' independent claim 1, dependent claim 16 is also not anticipated since the claim depends indirectly from claim 1 and recites additional features of the

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present invention. Thus, claim 16 should be deemed patentable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to independent claim 1.

Secondly, the Appellants contend that Kung does not teach the novel concept of a system for automated interactive management of a communication service account comprising a server and a data storage device comprising account data that comprises parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service and modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal in combination with the server being further configured to receive a customer-initiated signal identifying the user device, to retrieve the first account parameter in response to the identifying signal and to issue, in response to the identifying signal and for the communication to the customer, a response signal comprising at least part of the first account parameter, wherein the server is further configured to identify the type of user device and to issue the response signal in a form optimized for the user device, the server being further configured to update the first account parameter based upon use of the at least one subscribed communication service by the user device and the server being further configured to, upon the first account parameter reaching a first predetermined value, automatically reset the first account parameter to a second predetermined value and the server being further configured, upon receipt of a customer-initiated cancellation signal, to not automatically reset the first account parameter to a second predetermined value, as set forth in claim 16. Thus, a subscriber may choose to cancel the automatic replenish function of the Appellants' invention. (See e.g., Appellants' specification, page 18, para. [33].) There is absolutely no such teaching in Kung. Thus, Kung clearly fails to anticipate Appellants' dependent claim 16. Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that claim 16 fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and is patentable thereunder.

## 12. Claim 17

The Examiner has rejected claim 17 in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Kung. Appellants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The teachings of Kung are discussed above. The Appellants respectfully submit that Kung fails to teach or to suggest a method of managing communication service

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accounts comprising maintaining a database comprising account parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service and modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal, as positively claimed by the Appellants' independent claim 17. To illustrate, Appellants' independent claim 17 recites:

17. An automated method of managing communication service accounts comprising:

maintaining a database comprising account parameters, wherein at least one account parameter establishes rules by which a customer's user device may use at least one subscribed communication service at designated times;

receiving a customer-initiated signal requesting modification of the at least one account parameter;

modifying the at least one account parameter in response to the customer-initiated signal; and

updating the database to reflect modification of the at least one account parameter. (Emphasis added.)

In an exemplary embodiment, Appellants' system teaches a method of managing communication service accounts where the database comprises parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service. This gives subscribers flexibility in managing the usage of their subscribed communication service. (e.g., See Appellants' specification, page 10, para. [20].) For example, subscribers can exchange units, such as minutes or the number of movies, applicable for one period for units, such as minutes or the number of movies, applicable in a second period for a subscribed communication service. (See *Id*, emphasis added; page 16, para. [29].) Furthermore, in one embodiment, a subscriber can modify parameters in their account during a billing period. (See e.g., Appellants' specification, page 10, para. [20], emphasis added.) In other words, Appellants' invention allows usage parameters associated with a subscribed communication service to be adjustable by a user in an automated and interactive manner.

The Appellants respectfully submit that independent claim 17 is not as broad as the Examiner asserts. Notably, the parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service, as claimed by Appellants' independent claim 17, refers to rules of use (e.g. allocation of minutes, allocations of movies, and so on) of at

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least one subscribed communication service (e.g. a subscriber selected calling plan within the subscriber's wireless service). Furthermore, modifying the first account parameter in response to the customer-initiated signal, as positively claimed by Appellants' independent claim 17, does not require adding completely new or different services or changing calling plans. To illustrate, when the first account parameter is modified in response to the customer-initiated signal, the subscriber still has the same at least one subscribed communication service (i.e. the service plan is the same and the scope of the service is the same). In other words, a new communication service is not being provisioned by the user-initiated signal. Instead, the user is able to manipulate a first account parameter from said parameters that establish rules of use, e.g., modifying how minutes are allocated in a dialing plan of the existing subscribed communication service.

In contrast, Kung only teaches a method for automatically provisioning general services initiated by an existing customer. (See Kung, col. 3, ll. 20-51.) Services include requests for adding new telephone numbers, removing existing telephone numbers, adding new service features, removing existing service features, changing existing service providers, changing billing information, and dropping service altogether. (See Kung, col. 9, ll. 47-54.) Kung fails to teach or to suggest parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service or manipulating a first account parameter from said parameters that establish rules of use. Unlike the Appellants' invention, where modifying a first account parameter establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service simply re-allocates units, such as minutes in a calling plan, and the scope of the service remains unchanged, Kung teaches changing the scope of the service by provisioning additional services. Therefore, a method for automatically provisioning general services, such as adding new telephone numbers, removing existing telephone numbers, adding new service features, etc., does not anticipate the Appellants' system that is limited to the automated interactive management of a communication service account where the account data comprises parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service.

Contrary to the Examiner's broad interpretation of Appellants' independent claim

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17, Appellants' invention is limited to how a user is able to interactively adjust a usage parameter of a subscribed communication service, for example, modifying how minutes are allocated in an existing dialing plan of the existing subscribed communication service (e.g. a subscriber selected calling plan within the subscriber's wireless service), whereas Kung is teaching an automated service provisioning method. Thus, Kung clearly fails to anticipate Appellants' independent claim 17. Consequently, Appellants respectfully submit that independent claim 17 fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and is patentable thereunder.

13. Claim 19

Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Kung. Appellants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Appellants submit that Kung does not teach, show, or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 17. Since Kung does not anticipate Appellants' invention as recited in Appellants' independent claim 17, dependent claim 19 is also not anticipated since the claim depends directly from claim 17 and recites additional features of the present invention. Thus, claim 19 should be deemed patentable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to independent claim 17.

Secondly, the Appellants contend that Kung does not teach the novel concept of a method of managing communication service accounts comprising maintaining a database comprising account parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service and modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal in combination with the at least one subscribed communication service being long distance telephone service, the user devices being a telephone, the first account parameter comprises a preset amount of service usage time during a first period, and the first account parameter is modified to decrease the preset amount of service usage time during the first period and increase a preset amount of service usage time during a second period, as set forth in claim 19.

Consistent with Appellants' argument above, with respect to Appellants' independent claim 17, Appellants' dependent claim 19 teaches that the first account parameter is time. Consequently, when modifying the first account parameter in

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response to a customer-initiated signal, the time is modified within the at least one subscribed communication service. Specifically, in the exemplary embodiment of claim 19, preset amount of service usage time during a first period (e.g. off-peak hours) can be modified to decrease the allocation during the first period (e.g. off-peak hours) and to increase a preset amount of service usage time during a second period (e.g. peak hours). (See e.g., Appellants' specification, page 10, para. [20].) Notably, a new service is not added, a service is not changed, nor is a new calling plan selected. In contrast, Kung only teaches a method for automatically adding or changing general services initiated by an existing customer. (See Kung, col. 3, ll. 20-51.) Thus, Kung clearly fails to anticipate Appellants' dependent claim 19. Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that claim 19 fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and is patentable thereunder.

14. Claim 20

Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Kung. Appellants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Appellants submit that Kung does not teach, show, or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 17. Since Kung does not anticipate Appellants' invention as recited in Appellants' independent claim 17, dependent claim 20 is also not anticipated since the claim depends directly from claim 17 and recites additional features of the present invention. Thus, claim 20 should be deemed patentable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to independent claim 17.

Secondly, the Appellants contend that Kung does not teach the novel concept of a method of managing communication service accounts comprising maintaining a database comprising account parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service and modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal in combination with the at least one subscribed communication service shares a communication medium with cable television transmission, the user device is one of a personal computer, a set top box, an interactive television, and a VoIP telephone, the first account parameter comprises a preset amount of service usage time during a first period, and the first account



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parameter is modified to decrease the preset amount of service usage time during the first period and increase a preset amount of service usage time during a second period, as set forth in claim 20.

Consistent with Appellants' argument above, with respect to Appellants' independent claim 17, Appellants' dependent claim 20 teaches that the first account parameter is time. Consequently, when modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal, the time is modified within the at least one subscribed communication service. Specifically, in the exemplary embodiment of claim 20, preset amount of service usage time during a first period (e.g. off-peak hours) can be modified to decrease the allocation during the first period (e.g. off-peak hours) and to increase a preset amount of service usage time during a second period (e.g. peak hours). (See e.g., Appellants' specification, page 10, para. [20].) Notably, a new service is not added, a service is not changed, nor is a new calling plan selected. In contrast, Kung only teaches a method for automatically adding or changing general services initiated by an existing customer. (See Kung, col. 3, ll. 20-51.) Thus, Kung clearly fails to anticipate Appellants' dependent claim 20. Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that claim 20 fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and is patentable thereunder.

15. Claim 21

Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Kung. Appellants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Appellants submit that Kung does not teach, show, or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 17. Since Kung does not anticipate Appellants' invention as recited in Appellants' independent claim 17, dependent claim 21 is also not anticipated since the claim depends directly from claim 17 and recites additional features of the present invention. Thus, claim 21 should be deemed patentable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to independent claim 17.

Secondly, the Appellants contend that Kung does not teach the novel concept of a method of managing communication service accounts comprising maintaining a database comprising account parameters establishing rules of use of at least one

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subscribed communication service and modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal in combination with the steps of receiving a customer-initiated identifying signal identifying the user device, retrieving at least one account parameter in response to the identifying signal, issuing, in response to the identifying signal and for communication to the user device, a response signal comprising at least part of the retrieved account parameter and querying whether an account modification is desired, as set forth in claim 21.

Consistent with Appellants' argument above, with respect to Appellants' independent claim 17, Appellants' dependent claim 21 teaches retrieving the first account parameter and issuing a response signal comprising at least part of the first account parameter. Consequently, modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal, further triggers a query to inquire whether the customer intends to implement a change, e.g., the number of calling plan minutes is modified within the at least one subscribed communication service. A new service is not added, a service is not changed, nor is a new calling plan selected. In contrast, Kung only teaches a method for automatically adding or changing general services initiated by an existing customer. (See Kung, col. 3, ll. 20-51.) Thus, Kung clearly fails to anticipate Appellants' dependent claim 21. Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that claim 21 fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and is patentable thereunder.

16. Claim 23

Claim 23 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Kung. Appellants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Appellants submit that Kung does not teach, show, or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 17. Since Kung does not anticipate Appellants' invention as recited in Appellants' independent claim 17, dependent claim 23 is also not anticipated since the claim depends indirectly from claim 17 and recites additional features of the present invention. Thus, claim 23 should be deemed patentable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to independent claim 17.

Secondly, the Appellants contend that Kung does not teach the novel concept of a method of managing communication service accounts comprising maintaining a

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database comprising account parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service and modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal in combination with the at least one subscribed communication service being long distance telephone service, the user devices being a telephone, and the retrieved account parameter comprises a number of calling plan minutes, as set forth in claim 23.

Consistent with Appellants' argument above, with respect to Appellants' independent claim 17, Appellants' dependent claim 23 teaches that the first account parameter is a number of calling plan minutes. Consequently, when modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal, the number of calling plan minutes is modified within the at least one subscribed communication service. A new service is not added, a service is not changed, nor is a new calling plan selected. In contrast, Kung only teaches a method for automatically adding or changing general services initiated by an existing customer. (See Kung, col. 3, ll. 20-51.) Thus, Kung clearly fails to anticipate Appellants' dependent claim 23. Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that claim 23 fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and is patentable thereunder.

17. Claim 24

Claim 24 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Kung. Appellants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Appellants submit that Kung does not teach, show, or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 17. Since Kung does not anticipate Appellants' invention as recited in Appellants' independent claim 17, dependent claim 24 is also not anticipated since the claim depends indirectly from claim 17 and recites additional features of the present invention. Thus, claim 24 should be deemed patentable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to independent claim 17.

Secondly, the Appellants contend that Kung does not teach the novel concept of a method of managing communication service accounts comprising maintaining a database comprising account parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service and modifying the first account parameter in

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response to a customer-initiated signal in combination with the at least one subscribed communication service sharing a communication medium with cable television transmissions and the user device is one of a personal computer, a set top box, an interactive television and a VoIP telephone, as set forth in claim 24. The various types of user devices provide a subscriber greater access to modify a first account parameter establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service. (See e.g., Appellants' specification, page 17, para. [31].) For example, if a subscriber wants to modify the allocation of minutes (i.e. parameters establishing rules of use) of his selected wireless calling plan (i.e. at least one subscribed communication service) by a device other than the associated cell phone, the subscriber may do so on a personal computer. (See *Id.*) Furthermore, Kung is devoid of any teaching pertaining to cable television transmission. Thus, Kung clearly fails to anticipate Appellants' dependent claim 24. Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that claim 24 fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and is patentable thereunder.

18. Claim 25

The Examiner has rejected claim 25 in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Kung. Appellants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The teachings of Kung are discussed above. The Appellants respectfully submit that Kung fails to teach or to suggest a method of managing communication service accounts comprising maintaining databases comprising account parameters establishing rules of use of at least two types of subscribed communication services and modifying the first and second account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal, as positively claimed by the Appellants' independent claim 25. To illustrate, Appellants' independent claim 25 recites:

25. An automated method of managing communication service accounts, comprising:

maintaining a first database comprising account parameters establishing rules of use for at least two types of subscribed communication service, wherein a first account parameter establishes rules by which a first type subscribed communication service may be accessed at designated times;

maintaining a second database comprising account parameters establishing rules of use, wherein a second account parameter establishes rules

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by which a second type subscribed communication service may be accessed at designated times;

receiving a customer-initiated signal requesting modification of at least one of the first and second account parameters;

modifying, in response to the customer-initiated signal, the first parameter to change a preset amount of first service usage time during a first period;

modifying, in response to the customer-initiated signal, the second parameter to change a preset amount of second service usage time during a second period; and

updating at least one of the first and second databases to reflect modification of the first and second account parameters. (Emphasis added.)

In an exemplary embodiment, Appellants' system teaches a method of managing communication service accounts where the databases comprise parameters establishing rules of use of at least two types of subscribed communication services. This gives subscribers flexibility in managing the usage of their subscribed communication services. (e.g., See Appellants' specification, page 10, para. [20].) For example, subscribers can exchange units, such as minutes or the number of movies, applicable to one type of subscribed services, such as wired service, for units, such as minutes or the number of movies, applicable in a second type of subscribed service, such as wireless service. (See *Id*, emphasis added; page 19, para. [35].) It should be noted that a subscriber can modify parameters between accounts without adding new services or changing service plans. In other words, Appellants' invention allows usage parameters associated with a subscribed communication service to be adjustable by a user in an automated and interactive manner.

The Appellants respectfully submit that independent claim 25 is not as broad as the Examiner asserts. Notably, the parameters establishing rules of use of at least two types of subscribed communication services, as claimed by Appellants' independent claim 25, refers to rules of use (e.g. allocation of minutes) of at least two types of subscribed communication service (e.g. a wired and wireless service). Furthermore, modifying the first and second account parameter in response to the customer-initiated signal, as positively claimed by Appellants' independent claim 25, does not require adding completely new or different services or changing calling plans. To illustrate, when the first and second account parameters are modified in response to the customer-initiated signal, the subscriber still has the same at least two types of

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subscribed communication services (i.e. the service plan is the same and the scope of the service is the same). In other words, a new communication service is not being provisioned by the user-initiated signal. Instead, the user is able to manipulate a first and second account parameter from said parameters that establish rules of use, e.g., modifying how minutes are allocated in a dialing plan of existing subscribed communication services.

In contrast, Kung only teaches a method for automatically provisioning general services initiated by an existing customer. (See Kung, col. 3, ll. 20-51.) Services include requests for adding new telephone numbers, removing existing telephone numbers, adding new service features, removing existing service features, changing existing service providers, changing billing information, and dropping service altogether. (See Kung, col. 9, ll. 47-54.) Kung fails to teach or to suggest parameters establishing rules of use of at least two types of subscribed communication services or manipulating a first and second account parameter from said parameters that establish rules of use. Unlike the Appellants' invention, where modifying a first and second account parameter establishing rules of use of at least two types of subscribed communication services simply re-allocates units, such as minutes in a calling plan, between the subscribed communication services and the scope of the services remains unchanged, Kung teaches changing the scope of the service by provisioning additional services. Therefore, a method for automatically provisioning general services, such as adding new telephone numbers, removing existing telephone numbers, adding new service features, etc., does not anticipate the Appellants' system that is limited to the automated interactive management of a communication service account where the account data comprises parameters establishing rules of use of at least two types of subscribed communication service.

Contrary to the Examiner's broad interpretation of Appellants' independent claim 25, Appellants' invention is limited to how a user is able to interactively adjust a usage parameter of subscribed communication services, for example, modifying how minutes are allocated in an existing dialing plan of the existing subscribed communication services (e.g. a wired and wireless service), whereas Kung is teaching an automated service provisioning method. Thus, Kung clearly fails to anticipate Appellants'

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independent claim 25. Consequently, Appellants respectfully submit that independent claim 25 fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and is patentable thereunder.

19. Claim 26

Claim 26 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Kung. Appellants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Appellants submit that Kung does not teach, show, or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 25. Since Kung does not anticipate Appellants' invention as recited in Appellants' independent claim 25, dependent claim 26 is also not anticipated since the claim depends indirectly from claim 25 and recites additional features of the present invention. Thus, claim 26 should be deemed patentable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to independent claim 25.

Secondly, the Appellants contend that Kung does not teach the novel concept of a method of managing communication service accounts comprising maintaining databases comprising account parameters establishing rules of use of at least two types of subscribed communication services and modifying the first and second account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal in combination with the first and second databases being part of a single database, as set forth in claim 26.

Consistent with Appellants' argument above, with respect to Appellants' independent claim 25, Appellants' dependent claim 26 teaches that the first and second databases are, in one embodiment, a single database. This approach provides increased efficiency. A new service is not added, a service is not changed, nor is a new calling plan selected. In contrast, Kung only teaches a method for automatically adding or changing general services initiated by an existing customer. (See Kung, col. 3, ll. 20-51.) Thus, Kung clearly fails to anticipate Appellants' dependent claim 26. Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that claim 26 fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and is patentable thereunder.

20. Claim 27

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The Examiner has rejected claim 27 in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Kung. Appellants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The teachings of Kung are discussed above. The Appellants respectfully submit that Kung fails to teach or to suggest a system for automated interactive management of a communication service account comprising a server and a data storage device comprising account data that comprises parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service and modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal, as positively claimed by the Appellants' independent claim 27. To illustrate, Appellants' independent claim 27 recites:

27. A system for automated interactive management of a communication service account, comprising:  
a server; and  
a data storage device in communication with the server, the data storage device comprising account data that comprises parameters establishing rules of use that control the terms by which a plurality of user devices may obtain at least one subscribed communication service,  
wherein the server is configured  
to update a first account parameter based on use of the communication by the plurality of user devices,  
to receive a customer-initiated signal requesting modification of the first account parameter,  
to query the database and determine if the first account parameter is a modifiable account parameter that may be modified in response to a customer-initiated signal, and  
to modify the first account parameter if it is a modifiable account parameter. (Emphasis added.)

In an exemplary embodiment, Appellants' system teaches an automated interactive management of a communication service account where the account data comprises parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service. This gives subscribers flexibility in managing the usage of their subscribed communication service. (e.g., See Appellants' specification, page 10, para. [20].) For example, subscribers can exchange units, such as minutes or the number of movies, applicable for one period for units, such as minutes or the number of movies, applicable in a second period for a subscribed communication service. (See *Id*, emphasis added; page 16, para. [29].) Furthermore, in one embodiment, a subscriber



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can modify parameters in their account during a billing period. (See e.g., Appellants' specification, page 10, para. [20], emphasis added.) In other words, Appellants' invention allows usage parameters associated with a subscribed communication service to be adjustable by a user in an automated and interactive manner.

The Appellants respectfully submit that independent claim 27 is not as broad as the Examiner asserts. Notably, the parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service, as claimed by Appellants' independent claim 27, refers to rules of use (e.g. allocation of minutes) of at least one subscribed communication service (e.g. a subscriber selected calling plan within the subscriber's wireless service). Furthermore, modifying the first account parameter in response to the customer-initiated signal, as positively claimed by Appellants' independent claim 27, does not require adding completely new or different services or changing calling plans. To illustrate, when the first account parameter is modified in response to the customer-initiated signal, the subscriber still has the same at least one subscribed communication service (i.e. the service plan is the same and the scope of the service is the same). In other words, a new communication service is not being provisioned by the user-initiated signal. Instead, the user is able to manipulate a first account parameter from said parameters that establish rules of use, e.g., modifying how minutes are allocated in a dialing plan of the existing subscribed communication service.

In contrast, Kung only teaches a method for automatically provisioning general services initiated by an existing customer. (See Kung, col. 3, ll. 20-51.) Services include requests for adding new telephone numbers, removing existing telephone numbers, adding new service features, removing existing service features, changing existing service providers, changing billing information, and dropping service altogether. (See Kung, col. 9, ll. 47-54.) Kung fails to teach or to suggest parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service or manipulating a first account parameter from said parameters that establish rules of use. Unlike the Appellants' invention, where modifying a first account parameter establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service simply re-allocates units, such as minutes in a calling plan, and the scope of the service remains unchanged, Kung teaches changing the scope of the service by provisioning additional services.

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Therefore, a method for automatically provisioning general services, such as adding new telephone numbers, removing existing telephone numbers, adding new service features, etc., does not anticipate the Appellants' system that is limited to the automated interactive management of a communication service account where the account data comprises parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service.

Contrary to the Examiner's broad interpretation of Appellants' independent claim 27, Appellants' invention is limited to how a user is able to interactively adjust a usage parameter of a subscribed communication service, for example, modifying how minutes are allocated in an existing dialing plan of the existing subscribed communication service (e.g. a subscriber selected calling plan within the subscriber's wireless service), whereas Kung is teaching an automated service provisioning method. Thus, Kung clearly fails to anticipate Appellants' independent claim 27. Consequently, Appellants respectfully submit that independent claim 27 fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and is patentable thereunder.

**B. 35 U.S.C. §102(e) – Rosenberg**

**1. Claim 1**

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Rosenberg. Appellants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Rosenberg teaches systems and methods for automatically provisioning wireless services on a wireless device. A user can automatically enable wireless services without having to interact with a customer service representative or incur time delays to activate services. (See Rosenberg, Col. 3, Lines 34-39.) Wireless services may include cellular phone service, e-mail, internet access, games, financial trading, and location-aware services, among others. (See *Id.* at Lines 50-52.)

The Appellants respectfully submit that Rosenberg fails to teach or to suggest a system for automated interactive management of a communication service account comprising a server and a data storage device comprising account data that comprises parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service and modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal, as

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positively claimed by the Appellants' independent claim 1. To illustrate, Appellants' independent claim 1 recites:

1. A system for automated interactive management of a communication service account, said account having parameters establishing rules of use, comprising:
  - a server; and
  - a data storage device in communication with the server, the data storage device comprising account data that comprises the parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service, where said at least one subscribed communication service is accessible by a user device,wherein the server is configured to receive a customer-initiated signal requesting modification of a first account parameter from said parameters and to modify the first account parameter in response to the customer-initiated signal (Emphasis Added.)

In an exemplary embodiment, Appellants' system teaches an automated interactive management of a communication service account where the account data comprises parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service. This gives subscribers flexibility in managing the usage of their subscribed communication service. (e.g., See Appellants' specification, page 10, para. [20].) For example, subscribers can exchange units, such as minutes or the number of movies, applicable for one period for units, such as minutes or the number of movies, applicable in a second period for a subscribed communication service. (See *Id*, emphasis added; page 16, para. [29].) Furthermore, in one embodiment, a subscriber can modify parameters in their account during a billing period. (See e.g., Appellants' specification, page 10, para. [20], emphasis added.) In other words, Appellants' invention allows usage parameters associated with a subscribed communication service to be adjustable by a user in an automated and interactive manner.

The Appellants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is not as broad as the Examiner asserts. Notably, the parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service, as claimed by Appellants' independent claim 1, refers to rules of use (e.g. allocation of minutes) of at least one subscribed communication service (e.g. a subscriber selected calling plan within the subscriber's wireless service). Furthermore, modifying the first account parameter in response to the

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customer-initiated signal, as positively claimed by Appellants' independent claim 1, does not require adding completely new or different services or changing calling plans. To illustrate, when the first account parameter is modified in response to the customer-initiated signal, the subscriber still has the same at least one subscribed communication service (i.e. the service plan is the same and the scope of the service is the same). In other words, a new communication service is not being provisioned by the user-initiated signal. Instead, the user is able to manipulate a first account parameter from said parameters that establish rules of use, e.g., modifying how minutes are allocated in a dialing plan of the existing subscribed communication service.

In contrast, Rosenberg teaches a method for automatically provisioning general wireless services or changing wireless service plans. (See Rosenberg, col. 3, ll. 34-39.) Wireless services may include cellular phone service, e-mail, internet access, games, financial trading, and location-aware services, among others. (See *Id.* at Lines 50-52.) Rosenberg fails to teach or to suggest parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service or manipulating a first account parameter from said parameters that establish rules of use. For example, when changing wireless service plans, as taught by Rosenberg, the entire plan is changed, as opposed to a first parameter of the parameters that establish rules of use being changed. The price the subscriber pays and the standard amount of minutes allocated per plan will change by selecting a new calling plan. (See Rosenberg, Fig. 7.) In contrast, modifying the first account parameter in response to the customer-initiated signal, as positively claimed by Appellants' independent claim 1, the subscriber does not change plans. Rather, a single parameter of the established rules of use is modified (e.g. the re-allocation of off-peak minutes to peak minutes). Notably, in the Appellants' invention, the subscriber does not change calling plans when a first parameter of said parameters that establish rules of use is modified. Therefore, a method for automatically provisioning general wireless services, such as adding a new cellular phone service, e-mail, internet access, etc. or changing wireless service plans, does not anticipate the Appellants' system that is limited to the automated interactive management of a communication service account where the account data comprises parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service.

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Contrary to the Examiner's broad interpretation of Appellants' independent claim 1, Appellants' invention is limited to how a user is able to interactively adjust a usage parameter of a subscribed communication service, for example, modifying how minutes are allocated in an existing dialing plan of the existing subscribed communication service (e.g. a subscriber selected calling plan within the subscriber's wireless service), whereas Rosenberg is teaching a method to automatically provision new services or change calling plans. Thus, Rosenberg clearly fails to anticipate Appellants' independent claim 1. Consequently, Appellants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and is patentable thereunder.

2. Claim 2

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Rosenberg. Appellants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Appellants submit that Rosenberg does not teach, show, or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 1. Since Rosenberg does not anticipate Appellants' invention as recited in Appellants' independent claim 1, dependent claim 2 is also not anticipated since the claim depends directly from claim 1 and recites additional features of the present invention. Thus, claim 2 should be deemed patentable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to independent claim 1.

Secondly, the Appellants contend that Rosenberg does not teach the novel concept of a system for automated interactive management of a communication service account comprising a server and a data storage device comprising account data that comprises parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service and modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal in combination with the at least one subscribed communication service being wireless telephone service, the user devices being a wireless telephone, the customer-initiated signal is initiated on the user device and the first account parameter is a number of calling plan minutes, as set forth in claim 2.

Consistent with Appellants' argument above, with respect to Appellants' independent claim 1, Appellants' dependent claim 2 teaches that the first account parameter is a number of calling plan minutes. Consequently, when modifying the first

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account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal, the number of calling plan minutes is modified within the at least one subscribed communication service. A new service is not added, a service is not changed, nor is a new calling plan selected. In contrast, Rosenberg only teaches a method for automatically adding or changing general services or changing calling plans initiated by an existing customer. (See Rosenberg, col. 3, ll. 34-39; Fig. 7.) Thus, Rosenberg clearly fails to anticipate Appellants' dependent claim 2. Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that claim 2 fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and is patentable thereunder.

### 3. Claim 3

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Rosenberg. Appellants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Appellants submit that Rosenberg does not teach, show, or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 1. Since Rosenberg does not anticipate Appellants' invention as recited in Appellants' independent claim 1, dependent claim 3 is also not anticipated since the claim depends directly from claim 1 and recites additional features of the present invention. Thus, claim 3 should be deemed patentable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to independent claim 1.

Secondly, the Appellants contend that Rosenberg does not teach the novel concept of a system for automated interactive management of a communication service account comprising a server and a data storage device comprising account data that comprises parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service and modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal in combination with the at least one subscribed communication service being wireless telephone service, the user devices being a wireless telephone, the customer-initiated signal is initiated on a device that is not the user device and the first account parameter is a number of calling plan minutes, as set forth in claim 3.

Consistent with Appellants' argument above, with respect to Appellants' independent claim 1, Appellants' dependent claim 3 teaches that the first account parameter is a number of calling plan minutes. Consequently, when modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal, the number of calling plan

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minutes is modified within the at least one subscribed communication service. A new service is not added, a service is not changed, nor is a new calling plan selected. In contrast, Rosenberg only teaches a method for automatically adding or changing general services or changing calling plans initiated by an existing customer. (See Rosenberg, col. 3, ll. 34-39; Fig. 7.) Thus, Rosenberg clearly fails to anticipate Appellants' dependent claim 3. Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that claim 3 fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and is patentable thereunder.

4. Claim 4

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Rosenberg. Appellants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Appellants submit that Rosenberg does not teach, show, or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 1. Since Rosenberg does not anticipate Appellants' invention as recited in Appellants' independent claim 1, dependent claim 4 is also not anticipated since the claim depends indirectly from claim 1 and recites additional features of the present invention. Thus, claim 4 should be deemed patentable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to independent claim 1.

Secondly, the Appellants contend that Rosenberg does not teach the novel concept of a system for automated interactive management of a communication service account comprising a server and a data storage device comprising account data that comprises parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service and modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal in combination with the at least one subscribed communication service being wireless telephone service, the user devices being a wireless telephone, the customer-initiated signal is initiated on a device that is not the user device and the first account parameter is a number of calling plan minutes, wherein the customer-initiated signal is initiated on a personal computer, as set forth in claim 4.

Consistent with Appellants' argument above, with respect to Appellants' independent claim 1, Appellants' dependent claim 4 teaches that the first account parameter is a number of calling plan minutes. Consequently, when modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal, the number of calling plan

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minutes is modified within the at least one subscribed communication service. A new service is not added, a service is not changed, nor is a new calling plan selected. In contrast, Rosenberg only teaches a method for automatically adding or changing general services or changing calling plans initiated by an existing customer. (See Rosenberg, col. 3, ll. 34-39; Fig. 7.) Thus, Rosenberg clearly fails to anticipate Appellants' dependent claim 4. Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that claim 4 fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and is patentable thereunder.

5. Claim 9

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Rosenberg. Appellants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Appellants submit that Rosenberg does not teach, show, or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 1. Since Rosenberg does not anticipate Appellants' invention as recited in Appellants' independent claim 1, dependent claim 9 is also not anticipated since the claim depends directly from claim 1 and recites additional features of the present invention. Thus, claim 9 should be deemed patentable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to independent claim 1.

Secondly, the Appellants contend that Rosenberg does not teach the novel concept of a system for automated interactive management of a communication service account comprising a server and a data storage device comprising account data that comprises parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service and modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal in combination with the server being further configured to receive a customer-initiated signal identifying the user device, to retrieve the first account parameter in response to the identifying signal and to issue, in response to the identifying signal and for the communication to the customer, a response signal comprising at least part of the first account parameter, as set forth in claim 9.

Consistent with Appellants' argument above, with respect to Appellants' independent claim 1, Appellants' dependent claim 9 teaches retrieving the first account parameter and issuing a response signal comprising at least part of the first account parameter. Consequently, modifying the first account parameter in response to a



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customer-initiated signal, the server is able to identify the user device, e.g., its type, thereby increasing flexibility and efficiency. A new service is not added, a service is not changed, nor is a new calling plan selected. In contrast, Rosenberg only teaches a method for automatically adding or changing general services or changing calling plans initiated by an existing customer. (See Rosenberg, col. 3, ll. 34-39; Fig. 7.) Thus, Rosenberg clearly fails to anticipate Appellants' dependent claim 9. Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that claim 9 fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and is patentable thereunder.

6. Claim 10

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Rosenberg. Appellants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Appellants submit that Rosenberg does not teach, show, or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 1. Since Rosenberg does not anticipate Appellants' invention as recited in Appellants' independent claim 1, dependent claim 10 is also not anticipated since the claim depends indirectly from claim 1 and recites additional features of the present invention. Thus, claim 10 should be deemed patentable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to independent claim 1.

Secondly, the Appellants contend that Rosenberg does not teach the novel concept of a system for automated interactive management of a communication service account comprising a server and a data storage device comprising account data that comprises parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service and modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal in combination with the server being further configured to receive a customer-initiated signal identifying the user device, to retrieve the first account parameter in response to the identifying signal and to issue, in response to the identifying signal and for the communication to the customer, a response signal comprising at least part of the first account parameter, wherein the server is further configured to identify the type of user device and to issue the response signal in a form optimized for the user device, as set forth in claim 10. Because the subscriber may transmit an identifying signal from various devices, the issued response is in a form

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optimized for the user device, whether it be a cell phone or a personal computer. (See e.g., Appellants' specification, page 18, para. [31].) Rosenberg is completely devoid of this teaching. Thus, Rosenberg clearly fails to anticipate Appellants' dependent claim 10. Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that claim 10 fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and is patentable thereunder.

7. Claim 11

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Rosenberg. Appellants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Appellants submit that Rosenberg does not teach, show, or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 1. Since Rosenberg does not anticipate Appellants' invention as recited in Appellants' independent claim 1, dependent claim 11 is also not anticipated since the claim depends indirectly from claim 1 and recites additional features of the present invention. Thus, claim 11 should be deemed patentable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to independent claim 1.

Secondly, the Appellants contend that Rosenberg does not teach the novel concept of a system for automated interactive management of a communication service account comprising a server and a data storage device comprising account data that comprises parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service and modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal in combination with the server being further configured to receive a customer-initiated signal identifying the user device, to retrieve the first account parameter in response to the identifying signal and to issue, in response to the identifying signal and for the communication to the customer, a response signal comprising at least part of the first account parameter, wherein the server is further configured to identify the type of user device and to issue the response signal in a form optimized for the user device and the at least one subscribed communication service is wireless telephone service, the user device is a wireless device, and the first account parameter is a number of calling plan minutes, as set forth in claim 11.

Consistent with Appellants' argument above, with respect to Appellants' independent claim 1, Appellants' dependent claim 11 teaches that the first account

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parameter is a number of calling plan minutes. Consequently, when modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal, the number of calling plan minutes is modified within the at least one subscribed communication service. A new service is not added, a service is not changed, nor is a new calling plan selected. In contrast, Rosenberg only teaches a method for automatically adding or changing general services or changing calling plans initiated by an existing customer. (See Rosenberg, col. 3, ll. 34-39; Fig. 7.) Thus, Rosenberg clearly fails to anticipate Appellants' dependent claim 11. Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that claim 11 fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and is patentable thereunder.

8. Claim 14

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Rosenberg. Appellants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Appellants submit that Rosenberg does not teach, show, or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 1. Since Rosenberg does not anticipate Appellants' invention as recited in Appellants' independent claim 1, dependent claim 14 is also not anticipated since the claim depends indirectly from claim 1 and recites additional features of the present invention. Thus, claim 14 should be deemed patentable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to independent claim 1.

Secondly, the Appellants contend that Rosenberg does not teach the novel concept of a system for automated interactive management of a communication service account comprising a server and a data storage device comprising account data that comprises parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service and modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal in combination with the server being further configured to receive a customer-initiated signal identifying the user device, to retrieve the first account parameter in response to the identifying signal and to issue, in response to the identifying signal and for the communication to the customer, a response signal comprising at least part of the first account parameter, wherein the server is further configured to identify the type of user device and to issue the response signal in a form optimized for the user device and the server being further configured to update the first

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account parameter based upon use of the at least one subscribed communication service by the user device and the server being further configured to, upon the first account parameter reaching a first predetermined value, automatically reset the first account parameter to a second predetermined value, as set forth in claim 14. In addition to changing the allocation of minutes within in a subscribed calling plan, a subscriber may choose to automatically replenish a block of minutes when the allocated minutes are used. (See e.g., Appellants' specification, page 18, para. [33].) Rosenberg is completely devoid of this teaching. Thus, Rosenberg clearly fails to anticipate Appellants' dependent claim 14. Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that claim 14 fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and is patentable thereunder.

9. Claim 15

Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Rosenberg. Appellants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Appellants submit that Rosenberg does not teach, show, or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 1. Since Rosenberg does not anticipate Appellants' invention as recited in Appellants' independent claim 1, dependent claim 15 is also not anticipated since the claim depends indirectly from claim 1 and recites additional features of the present invention. Thus, claim 15 should be deemed patentable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to independent claim 1.

Secondly, the Appellants contend that Rosenberg does not teach the novel concept of a system for automated interactive management of a communication service account comprising a server and a data storage device comprising account data that comprises parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service and modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal in combination with the server being further configured to receive a customer-initiated signal identifying the user device, to retrieve the first account parameter in response to the identifying signal and to issue, in response to the identifying signal and for the communication to the customer, a response signal comprising at least part of the first account parameter, wherein the server is further configured to identify the type of user device and to issue the response signal in a form

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optimized for the user device, the server being further configured to update the first account parameter based upon use of the at least one subscribed communication service by the user device and the server being further configured to, upon the first account parameter reaching a first predetermined value, automatically reset the first account parameter to a second predetermined value and the at least one subscribed communication service is wireless telephone service, the user device is a wireless telephone, the first account parameter is a number of calling plan minutes, the server is configured to update the number of calling plan minutes based upon the user device placing wireless telephone calls, the first predetermined value is a minimum calling plan minute threshold, and the second predetermined value is larger than the first predetermined value, as set forth in claim 15.

Consistent with Appellants' argument above, with respect to Appellants' independent claim 1, Appellants' dependent claim 15 teaches that the first account parameter is a number of calling plan minutes. Consequently, when modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal, the number of calling plan minutes is modified within the at least one subscribed communication service. A new service is not added, a service is not changed, nor is a new calling plan selected. In contrast, Rosenberg only teaches a method for automatically adding or changing general services or changing calling plans initiated by an existing customer. (See Rosenberg, col. 3, ll. 34-39; Fig. 7.) Thus, Rosenberg clearly fails to anticipate Appellants' dependent claim 15. Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that claim 15 fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and is patentable thereunder.

#### 10. Claim 17

The Examiner has rejected claim 17 in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Rosenberg. Appellants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The teachings of Rosenberg are discussed above. The Appellants respectfully submit that Rosenberg fails to teach or to suggest a method of managing communication service accounts comprising maintaining a database comprising account parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service and modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated

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signal, as positively claimed by the Appellants' independent claim 17. To illustrate, Appellants' independent claim 17 recites:

17. An automated method of managing communication service accounts comprising:  
maintaining a database comprising account parameters, wherein at least one account parameter establishes rules by which a customer's user device may use at least one subscribed communication service at designated times;  
receiving a customer-initiated signal requesting modification of the at least one account parameter;  
modifying the at least one account parameter in response to the customer-initiated signal; and  
updating the database to reflect modification of the at least one account parameter. (Emphasis added.)

In an exemplary embodiment, Appellants' system teaches a method of managing communication service accounts where the database comprises parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service. This gives subscribers flexibility in managing the usage of their subscribed communication service. (e.g., See Appellants' specification, page 10, para. [20].) For example, subscribers can exchange units, such as minutes or the number of movies, applicable for one period for units, such as minutes or the number of movies, applicable in a second period for a subscribed communication service. (See *Id*, emphasis added; page 16, para. [29].) Furthermore, in one embodiment, a subscriber can modify parameters in their account during a billing period. (See e.g., Appellants' specification, page 10, para. [20], emphasis added.) In other words, Appellants' invention allows usage parameters associated with a subscribed communication service to be adjustable by a user in an automated and interactive manner.

The Appellants respectfully submit that independent claim 17 is not as broad as the Examiner asserts. Notably, the parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service, as claimed by Appellants' independent claim 17, refers to rules of use (e.g. allocation of minutes) of at least one subscribed communication service (e.g. a subscriber selected calling plan within the subscriber's wireless service). Furthermore, modifying the first account parameter in response to the customer-initiated signal, as positively claimed by Appellants' independent claim 17,

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does not require adding completely new or different services or changing calling plans. To illustrate, when the first account parameter is modified in response to the customer-initiated signal, the subscriber still has the same at least one subscribed communication service (i.e. the service plan is the same and the scope of the service is the same). In other words, a new communication service is not being provisioned by the user-initiated signal. Instead, the user is able to manipulate a first account parameter from said parameters that establish rules of use, e.g., modifying how minutes are allocated in a dialing plan of the existing subscribed communication service.

In contrast, Rosenberg teaches a method for automatically provisioning general wireless services or changing wireless service plans. (See Rosenberg, col. 3, ll. 34-39.) Wireless services may include cellular phone service, e-mail, internet access, games, financial trading, and location-aware services, among others. (See *Id.* at Lines 50-52.) Rosenberg fails to teach or to suggest parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service or manipulating a first account parameter from said parameters that establish rules of use. For example, when changing wireless service plans, as taught by Rosenberg, the entire plan is changed, as opposed to a first parameter of the parameters that establish rules of use being changed. The price the subscriber pays and the standard amount of minutes allocated per plan will change by selecting a new calling plan. (See Rosenberg, Fig. 7.) In contrast, modifying the first account parameter in response to the customer-initiated signal, as positively claimed by Appellants' independent claim 1, the subscriber does not change plans. Rather, a single parameter of the established rules of use is modified (e.g. the re-allocation of off-peak minutes to peak minutes). Notably, in the Appellants' invention, the subscriber does not change calling plans when a first parameter of said parameters that establish rules of use is modified. Therefore, a method for automatically provisioning general wireless services, such as adding a new cellular phone service, e-mail, internet access, etc. or changing wireless service plans, does not anticipate the Appellants' system that is limited to the automated interactive management of a communication service account where the account data comprises parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service.

Contrary to the Examiner's broad interpretation of Appellants' independent claim

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17, Appellants' invention is limited to how a user is able to interactively adjust a usage parameter of a subscribed communication service, for example, modifying how minutes are allocated in an existing dialing plan of the existing subscribed communication service (e.g. a subscriber selected calling plan within the subscriber's wireless service), whereas Rosenberg is teaching a method to automatically provision new services or change calling plans. Thus, Rosenberg clearly fails to anticipate Appellants' independent claim 17. Consequently, Appellants respectfully submit that independent claim 17 fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and is patentable thereunder.

11. Claim 18

Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Rosenberg. Appellants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Appellants submit that Rosenberg does not teach, show, or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 17. Since Rosenberg does not anticipate Appellants' invention as recited in Appellants' independent claim 17, dependent claim 18 is also not anticipated since the claim depends directly from claim 17 and recites additional features of the present invention. Thus, claim 18 should be deemed patentable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to independent claim 17.

Secondly, the Appellants contend that Rosenberg does not teach the novel concept of a method of managing communication service accounts comprising maintaining a database comprising account parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service and modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal in combination with the at least one subscribed communication service being wireless telephone service, the user devices being a wireless telephone, the first account parameter comprises a preset amount of service usage time during a first period, and the first account parameter is modified to decrease the preset amount of service usage time during the first period and increase a preset amount of service usage time during a second period, as set forth in claim 18.

Consistent with Appellants' argument above, with respect to Appellants' independent claim 17, Appellants' dependent claim 18 teaches that the first account



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parameter is time. Consequently, when modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal, the time is modified within the at least one subscribed communication service. Specifically, in the exemplary embodiment of claim 18, preset amount of service usage time during a first period (e.g. off-peak hours) can be modified to decrease the allocation during the first period (e.g. off-peak hours) and to increase a preset amount of service usage time during a second period (e.g. peak hours). (See e.g., Appellants' specification, page 10, para. [20].) Notably, a new service is not added, a service is not changed, nor is a new calling plan selected. In contrast, Rosenberg only teaches a method for automatically adding or changing general services or changing calling plans initiated by an existing customer. (See Rosenberg, col. 3, ll. 34-39; Fig. 7.) Thus, Rosenberg clearly fails to anticipate Appellants' dependent claim 18. Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that claim 18 fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and is patentable thereunder.

12. Claim 21

Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Rosenberg. Appellants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Appellants submit that Rosenberg does not teach, show, or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 17. Since Rosenberg does not anticipate Appellants' invention as recited in Appellants' independent claim 17, dependent claim 21 is also not anticipated since the claim depends directly from claim 17 and recites additional features of the present invention. Thus, claim 21 should be deemed patentable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to independent claim 17.

Secondly, the Appellants contend that Rosenberg does not teach the novel concept of a method of managing communication service accounts comprising maintaining a database comprising account parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service and modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal in combination with the steps of receiving a customer-initiated identifying signal identifying the user device, retrieving at least one account parameter in response to the identifying signal, issuing, in response to the identifying signal and for communication to the user device, a response signal

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comprising at least part of the retrieved account parameter and querying whether an account modification is desired, as set forth in claim 21.

Consistent with Appellants' argument above, with respect to Appellants' independent claim 17, Appellants' dependent claim 21 teaches retrieving the first account parameter and issuing a response signal comprising at least part of the first account parameter. Consequently, modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal, further triggers an query as to whether the customer intends to modify an account, e.g., the number of calling plan minutes is modified within the at least one subscribed communication service. A new service is not added, a service is not changed, nor is a new calling plan selected. In contrast, Rosenberg only teaches a method for automatically adding or changing general services or changing calling plans initiated by an existing customer. (See Rosenberg, col. 3, ll. 34-39; Fig. 7.) Thus, Rosenberg clearly fails to anticipate Appellants' dependent claim 21. Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that claim 21 fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and is patentable thereunder.

13. Claim 22

Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Rosenberg. Appellants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Appellants submit that Rosenberg does not teach, show, or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 17. Since Rosenberg does not anticipate Appellants' invention as recited in Appellants' independent claim 17, dependent claim 22 is also not anticipated since the claim depends indirectly from claim 17 and recites additional features of the present invention. Thus, claim 22 should be deemed patentable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to independent claim 17.

Secondly, the Appellants contend that Rosenberg does not teach the novel concept of a method of managing communication service accounts comprising maintaining a database comprising account parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service and modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal in combination with the at least one subscribed communication service being wireless telephone service, the user devices

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being a wireless telephone, and the retrieved account parameter comprises a number of calling plan minutes, as set forth in claim 22.

Consistent with Appellants' argument above, with respect to Appellants' independent claim 17, Appellants' dependent claim 22 teaches that the first account parameter is a number of calling plan minutes. Consequently, when modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal, the number of calling plan minutes is modified within the at least one subscribed communication service. A new service is not added, a service is not changed, nor is a new calling plan selected. In contrast, Rosenberg only teaches a method for automatically adding or changing general services or changing calling plans initiated by an existing customer. (See Rosenberg, col. 3, ll. 34-39; Fig. 7.) Thus, Rosenberg clearly fails to anticipate Appellants' dependent claim 22. Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that claim 22 fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and is patentable thereunder.

14. Claim 27

The Examiner has rejected claim 27 in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Rosenberg. Appellants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The teachings of Rosenberg are discussed above. The Appellants respectfully submit that Rosenberg fails to teach or to suggest a system for automated interactive management of a communication service account comprising a server and a data storage device comprising account data that comprises parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service and modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal, as positively claimed by the Appellants' independent claim 27. To illustrate, Appellants' independent claim 27 recites:

27. A system for automated interactive management of a communication service account, comprising:

a server; and

a data storage device in communication with the server, the data storage device comprising account data that comprises parameters establishing rules of use that control the terms by which a plurality of user devices may obtain at least one subscribed communication service,

wherein the server is configured

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to update a first account parameter based on use of the communication by the plurality of user devices,  
to receive a customer-initiated signal requesting modification of the first account parameter,  
to query the database and determine if the first account parameter is a modifiable account parameter that may be modified in response to a customer-initiated signal, and  
to modify the first account parameter if it is a modifiable account parameter. (Emphasis added.)

In an exemplary embodiment, Appellants' system teaches an automated interactive management of a communication service account where the account data comprises parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service. This gives subscribers flexibility in managing the usage of their subscribed communication service. (e.g., See Appellants' specification, page 10, para. [20].) For example, subscribers can exchange units, such as minutes or the number of movies, applicable for one period for units, such as minutes or the number of movies, applicable in a second period for a subscribed communication service. (See *Id*, emphasis added; page 16, para. [29].) Furthermore, in one embodiment, a subscriber can modify parameters in their account during a billing period. (See e.g., Appellants' specification, page 10, para. [20], emphasis added.) In other words, Appellants' invention allows usage parameters associated with a subscribed communication service to be adjustable by a user in an automated and interactive manner.

The Appellants respectfully submit that independent claim 27 is not as broad as the Examiner asserts. Notably, the parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service, as claimed by Appellants' independent claim 27, refers to rules of use (e.g. allocation of minutes) of at least one subscribed communication service (e.g. a subscriber selected calling plan within the subscriber's wireless service). Furthermore, modifying the first account parameter in response to the customer-initiated signal, as positively claimed by Appellants' independent claim 27, does not require adding completely new or different services or changing calling plans. To illustrate, when the first account parameter is modified in response to the customer-initiated signal, the subscriber still has the same at least one subscribed communication service (i.e. the service plan is the same and the scope of the service is the same). In

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other words, a new communication service is not being provisioned by the user-initiated signal. Instead, the user is able to manipulate a first account parameter from said parameters that establish rules of use, e.g., modifying how minutes are allocated in a dialing plan of the existing subscribed communication service.

In contrast, Rosenberg teaches a method for automatically provisioning general wireless services or changing wireless service plans. (See Rosenberg, col. 3, ll. 34-39.) Wireless services may include cellular phone service, e-mail, internet access, games, financial trading, and location-aware services, among others. (See *Id.* at Lines 50-52.) Rosenberg fails to teach or to suggest parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service or manipulating a first account parameter from said parameters that establish rules of use. For example, when changing wireless service plans, as taught by Rosenberg, the entire plan is changed, as opposed to a first parameter of the parameters that establish rules of use being changed. The price the subscriber pays and the standard amount of minutes allocated per plan will change by selecting a new calling plan. (See Rosenberg, Fig. 7.) In contrast, modifying the first account parameter in response to the customer-initiated signal, as positively claimed by Appellants' independent claim 27, the subscriber does not change plans. Rather, a single parameter of the established rules of use is modified (e.g. the re-allocation of off-peak minutes to peak minutes). Notably, in the Appellants' invention, the subscriber does not change calling plans when a first parameter of said parameters that establish rules of use is modified. Therefore, a method for automatically provisioning general wireless services, such as adding a new cellular phone service, e-mail, internet access, etc. or changing wireless service plans, does not anticipate the Appellants' system that is limited to the automated interactive management of a communication service account where the account data comprises parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service.

Contrary to the Examiner's broad interpretation of Appellants' independent claim 27, Appellants' invention is limited to how a user is able to interactively adjust a usage parameter of a subscribed communication service, for example, modifying how minutes are allocated in an existing dialing plan of the existing subscribed communication service (e.g. a subscriber selected calling plan within the subscriber's wireless service),

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whereas Rosenberg is teaching a method to automatically provision new services or change calling plans. Thus, Rosenberg clearly fails to anticipate Appellants' independent claim 27. Consequently, Appellants respectfully submit that independent claim 27 fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and is patentable thereunder.

15. Claim 28

Claim 28 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Rosenberg. Appellants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Appellants submit that Rosenberg does not teach, show, or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 27. Since Rosenberg does not anticipate Appellants' invention as recited in Appellants' independent claim 27, dependent claim 28 is also not anticipated since the claim depends indirectly from claim 27 and recites additional features of the present invention. Thus, claim 28 should be deemed patentable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to independent claim 27.

Secondly, the Appellants contend that Rosenberg does not teach the novel concept of a system for automated interactive management of a communication service account comprising a server and a data storage device comprising account data that comprises parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service and modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal in combination with the at least one subscribed communication service being wireless telephone service, the plurality of user devices comprising a group of wireless telephones, the first account parameter comprises a set of calling plan minutes from which each of the plurality of user devices may draw, and the customer-initiated signal comprises a group administrator access code, as set forth in claim 28.

Consistent with Appellants' argument above, with respect to Appellants' independent claim 27, Appellants' dependent claim 28 teaches that the first account parameter is a number of calling plan minutes. Consequently, when modifying the first account parameter in response to a customer-initiated signal, the number of calling plan minutes is modified within the at least one subscribed communication service. A new service is not added, a service is not changed, nor is a new calling plan selected. In

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contrast, Rosenberg only teaches a method for automatically adding or changing general services or changing calling plans initiated by an existing customer. (See Rosenberg, col. 3, ll. 34-39; Fig. 7.) Thus, Rosenberg clearly fails to anticipate Appellants' dependent claim 28. Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that claim 28 fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and is patentable thereunder.


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### **CONCLUSION**

For the reasons advanced above, the Appellants respectfully urge that the rejections of claims 1-28 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §102 are improper. Reversal of the rejections in this appeal is respectfully requested. If necessary, please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 20-0782/ATT2001-0305, and please credit any excess fees to the above referenced deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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## CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. A system for automated interactive management of a communication service account, said account having parameters establishing rules of use, comprising:
  - a server; and
  - a data storage device in communication with the server, the data storage device comprising account data that comprises the parameters establishing rules of use of at least one subscribed communication service, where said at least one subscribed communication service is accessible by a user device,wherein the server is configured to receive a customer-initiated signal requesting modification of a first account parameter from said parameters and to modify the first account parameter in response to the customer-initiated signal.
2. The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one subscribed communication service is wireless telephone service, the user device is a wireless telephone, the customer-initiated signal is initiated on the user device, and the first account parameter is a number of calling plan minutes.
3. The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one subscribed communication service is wireless telephone service, the user device is a wireless telephone, the customer-initiated signal is initiated on a device that is not the user device, and the first account parameter is a number of calling plan minutes.
4. The system of claim 3 wherein the customer-initiated signal is initiated on a personal computer.
5. The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one subscribed communication service is long distance telephone service, the user device is a telephone, the customer-initiated signal is initiated on the user device, and the first account parameter is a number of calling plan minutes.

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6. The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one subscribed communication service is long distance telephone service, the user device is a telephone, the customer-initiated signal is initiated on a device that is not the user device, and the first account parameter is a number of calling plan minutes.

7. The system of claim 6 wherein the customer-initiated signal is initiated on a personal computer.

8. The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one subscribed communication service shares a communication medium with cable television transmission and the user device is one of a personal computer, a set top box, an interactive television, and a VoIP telephone.

9. The system of claim 1 wherein the server is further configured to receive a customer-initiated identifying signal identifying the user device, to retrieve the first account parameter in response to the identifying signal, and

to issue, in response to the identifying signal and for communication to the customer, a response signal comprising at least part of the first account parameter.

10. The system of claim 9 wherein the server is further configured to identify the type of user device, and

to issue the response signal in a form optimized for the user device.

11. The system of claim 10 wherein the at least one subscribed communication service is wireless telephone service, the user device is a wireless telephone, the customer-initiated signal is initiated on the user device, and the first account parameter is a number of calling plan minutes.

12. The system of claim 10 wherein the at least one subscribed communication service is long distance telephone service, the user device is a telephone, and the first account parameter is a number of calling plan minutes.

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13. The system of claim 10 wherein the at least one subscribed communication service shares a communication medium with cable television transmission and the user device is one of a personal computer, a set top box, an interactive television, and a VoIP telephone.

14. The system of claim 10 wherein the server is further configured to update the first account parameter based up on use of the at least one subscribed communication service by the user device, and the server is further configured to, upon the first account parameter reaching a first predetermined value, automatically reset the first account parameter to a second predetermined value.

15. The system of claim 14 wherein the at least one subscribed communication service is wireless telephone service, the user device is a wireless telephone, the first account parameter is a number of calling plan minutes, the server is configured to update the number of calling plan minutes based upon the user device placing wireless telephone calls, the first predetermined value is a minimum calling plan minute threshold, and the second predetermined value is larger than the first predetermined value.

16. The system of claim 14 wherein the server is further configured, upon receipt of a customer-initiated cancellation signal, to not automatically reset the first account parameter to a second predetermined value.

17. An automated method of managing communication service accounts comprising:  
maintaining a database comprising account parameters, wherein at least one account parameter establishes rules by which a customer's user device may use at least one subscribed communication service at designated times;  
receiving a customer-initiated signal requesting modification of the at least one account parameter;  
modifying the at least one account parameter in response to the customer-initiated signal; and

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updating the database to reflect modification of the at least one account parameter.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the at least one subscribed communication service is wireless telephone service, the user device is a wireless telephone, the first account parameter comprises a preset amount of service usage time during a first period, and the first account parameter is modified to decrease the preset amount of service usage time during the first period and increase a preset amount of service usage time during a second period.

19. The method of claim 17 wherein the at least one subscribed communication service is long distance telephone service, the user device is a telephone, the first account parameter comprises a preset amount of service usage time during a first period, and the first account parameter is modified to decrease the preset amount of service usage time during the first period and increase a preset amount of service usage time during a second period.

20. The method of claim 17 wherein the at least one subscribed communication service shares a communication medium with cable television transmission, the user device is one of a personal computer, a set top box, an interactive television, and a VoIP telephone, the first account parameter comprises a preset amount of service usage time during a first period, and the first account parameter is modified to decrease the preset amount of service usage time during the first period and increase a preset amount of service usage time during a second period.

21. The method of claim 17 further comprising the steps of  
receiving a customer-initiated identifying signal identifying the user device;  
retrieving at least one account parameter in response to the identifying signal;  
issuing, in response to the identifying signal and for communication to the user device, a response signal comprising at least part of the retrieved account parameter;  
and

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querying whether an account modification is desired.

22. The method of claim 21 wherein the at least one subscribed communication service is wireless telephone service, the user device is a wireless telephone, and the retrieved account parameter comprises a number of calling plan minutes.

23. The method of claim 21 wherein the at least one subscribed communication service is long distance telephone service, the user device is a telephone, and the retrieved account parameter comprises a number of calling plan minutes.

24. The method of claim 21 wherein the at least one subscribed communication service shares a communication medium with cable television transmission and the user device is one of a personal computer, a set top box, an interactive television, and a VoIP telephone.

25. An automated method of managing communication service accounts, comprising:  
    maintaining a first database comprising account parameters establishing rules of use for at least two types of subscribed communication service, wherein a first account parameter establishes rules by which a first type subscribed communication service may be accessed at designated times;  
    maintaining a second database comprising account parameters establishing rules of use, wherein a second account parameter establishes rules by which a second type subscribed communication service may be accessed at designated times;  
    receiving a customer-initiated signal requesting modification of at least one of the first and second account parameters;  
    modifying, in response to the customer-initiated signal, the first parameter to change a preset amount of first service usage time during a first period;  
    modifying, in response to the customer-initiated signal, the second parameter to change a preset amount of second service usage time during a second period; and  
    updating at least one of the first and second databases to reflect modification of the first and second account parameters.

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26. The method of claim 25 wherein the first and second databases are part of a single database.

27. A system for automated interactive management of a communication service account, comprising:

a server; and

a data storage device in communication with the server, the data storage device comprising account data that comprises parameters establishing rules of use that control the terms by which a plurality of user devices may obtain at least one subscribed communication service,

wherein the server is configured

to update a first account parameter based on use of the communication by the plurality of user devices,

to receive a customer-initiated signal requesting modification of the first account parameter,

to query the database and determine if the first account parameter is a modifiable account parameter that may be modified in response to a customer-initiated signal, and

to modify the first account parameter if it is a modifiable account parameter.

28. The system of claim 27 wherein the at least one subscribed communication service is wireless telephone service, the plurality of user devices comprises a group of wireless telephones, the first account parameter comprises a set of calling plan minutes from which each of the plurality of user devices may draw, and the customer-initiated signal comprises a group administrator access code.

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**EVIDENCE APPENDIX**

None

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**RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX**

None